Assessment on Poverty Line in various States

†2418. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether the facts about the number of persons who are living below the poverty line in different States in the country has been highlighted by a report, published by the World Bank, recently;

(b) if so, whether highest number of poor people are reported to have been living in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar; and

(c) if so, the assessment of Government in this regard alongwith the names and number of such States where less number, as against the national average of poor people are living?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Report No. 19471-IN entitled India: Policies to Reduce Poverty and Accelerate Sustainable Development, a Document of the World bank published on Janaury 31, 2000 has presented poverty estimates for 14 Indian States. These estimates are based on World Bank India Poverty Assesment, 1997. According to this Report, percentage of people living below the poverty line in 1994 are 43.5% in Maharashtra and Rajasthan, 44.1% in Madhya Pradesh, 40.2% in Uttar Pradesh, 40.3% in Orissa and 60.4% in Bihar.

(c) According to the Planning Commission, the percentage of people living below the poverty line in 1993-94 are 36.86% in Maharashtra, 27.41% in Rajasthan, 42.52% in Madhya Pradesh, 40.85% in Uttar Pradesh, 48.56% in Orissa and 54.96% in Bihar. The States where the percentage of people living below the poverty line are less than the national average are: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradeshs, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.